

Message Text

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ACTION AGRE-00

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DEPT PLEASE PASS AGRICULTURE/FAS FOR HORBALY/BROWN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, CZ

SUBJECT: AGATT MEETING WITH MEMBER OF CZECHOSLOVAK AGRICULTURAL TEAM RECENTLY RETURNED FROM U.S.

REF: (A) STATE 306871 (B) PRAGUE 3563

1. SUMMARY. ON DEC. 27 AGATT MET MRAZ MEMBER OF CZECHOSLOVAK AGRICULTURAL TEAM RECENTLY RETURNED FROM U.S. HOLEC ANOTHER MEMBER OF TEAM SCHEDULED ALSO TO MEET AGATT WAS NOT PRESENT. MRAZ GAVE ACCOUNT OF TEAM'S EXPERIENCE IN U.S. WITH DISCUSSION FOCUSING ON AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY AND TECHNOLOGY. CZECHOSLOVAKIA AMONG OTHER THINGS INTERESTED IN BUYING FROM U.S. LARGE NUMBER OF CORN PLANTING MACHINES, INTRODUCING CORN PRODUCTION SYSTEM SUCCESSFULLY DEVELOPED BY TOM KISS AND ASSOCIATES OF CHICAGO, AND OBTAINING LICENSES FOR BUILDING RECYCLING PLANTS FOR ANIMAL WASTE. TEAM WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH TRIP AND IMPRESSED WITH U.S. AGRICULTURAL EFFICIENCY. END SUMMARY.

2. MRAZ WHO HEADS DEPARTMENT OF INVESTMENT AND TECHNOLOGY IN SLOVAK MINISTRY OF AGRICLTURE SAID CANDIDLY THAT FROM HIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STANDPOINT OF VIEW TEAM WENT SHOPPING IN U.S. FOR TECHNOLOGY TO PROP UP CZECHOSLOVAK AGRICULTURE. ONE LARGE AREA OF SPECIFIC INTEREST WAS IN A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR DEAL TO BUY 150 CORN PLANTING MACHINES (12 ROWS) FROM DEERE AND CO. THE PROBLEM NOW IS TIMING. CZECHOSLOVAKIA NEEDS THESE MACHINES BY APRIL 1977 AND DEERE AND CO. CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT THESE CAN BE DELIVERED FROM EUROPEAN MANUFACTURING SOURCES (GERMANY).

APPARENTLY DIRECT DELIVERY FROM U.S. BY APRIL 1977 IS OUT OF QUESTION.

3. BECAUSE EMPHASIS TO INCREASE CORN PRODUCTION DURING PRESENT 5 YEAR PLAN CZECHOSLOVAKIA SHOWS GREAT INTEREST IN CPS (CORN PRODUCTION SYSTEM) DEVELOPED BY TOM KISS AND ASSOCIATES OF CHICAGO AND SUCCESSFULLY INTRODUCED IN NEIGHBORING HUNGARY. SLOVAKIA WHICH PRODUCES 90 PERCENT CZECHOSLOVAK CORN CROP - NOW AROUND HALF MILLION TONS - PLANS TO INCREASE CORN OUTPUT TO 1 MILLION TONS BY 1980. MRAZ SEES GREAT POSSIBILITY ACHIEVING THIS GOAL VIA CPS AND WITH HELP MODERN CORN PLANTING EQUIPMENT. NEGOTIATIONS NOW UNDERWAY WITH TOM KISS AND ASSOC.

4. ANOTHER MAJOR AREA IN WHICH CZECHOSLOVAKIA SHOWING GREAT INTEREST IS ANIMAL WASTE RECYCLING. BECAUSE SHORT PROTEIN SUPPLIES OF THEIR OWN, CZECHOSLOVAKIA WOULD LIKE TO BUILD ONE OR MORE RECYCLING PLANTS FOR PRODUCTION PROTEIN FOR FEED. HOWEVER BECAUSE OF MULTI-MILLION DOLLARS INVOLVED IN BUYING, THEY WOULD PREFER BUILD SUCH PLANTS ON BASIS LICENSES RATHER THAN ON BASIS OUTRIGHT PURCHASES OF PLANT COMPONENTS. UNFORTUNATELY TEAM MEMBERS SO FAR HAVE NOT YET FOUND ANY U.S. FIRMS INTERESTED IN LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS. NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE.

5. CZECHOSLOVAKIA ACCORDING TO MRAZ ALSO NEEDS MODERN TECHNOLOGY IN CULTIVATION OF PULSES, NOTABLY IN HARVESTING OF PEAS, BEANS AND LENTILS. THUS FAR THEY HAVE NOT YET FOUND SUITABLE EQUIPMENT. CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS NOW LOOKING IN CALIFORNIA FOR SUCH TECHNOLOGY.

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6. MRAZ SAID APOLOGETICALLY HE COULD NOT WELL DISCUSS OTHER ASPECTS OF VISIT IN ABSENCE OF HOLEC, THE LIVESTOCK EXPERT ON TEAM. SUGGESTED THAT AGATT MEET HIM SEPARATELY. AGREED TO ARRANGE FOR VISIT IN TRENCIN AREA WHERE HOLEC HEADS LARGE COOPERATIVE LIVESTOCK ENTERPRISE (HOGS). SUGGESTED VISIT TAKE PLACE TOWARD END FEBRUARY WHEN WEATHER MORE FAVORABLE.

7. MRAZ ASKED AGATT TO CONVEY TO USDA TEAM'S APPRECIATION FOR THE EXCELLENT AND WORTHWHILE PROGRAM ARRANGED AND TEAM'S DESIRE SEE INCREASED CONTACTS AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. HE ALSO REMARKED VISITS OF HIGHER LEVEL AGRICULTURAL OFFICIALS COULD GREATLY ENHANCE VALUE SUCH CONTACTS.

8. AT END OF MEETING MRAZ'S BOSS, EUGENE NEMETH, DEPUTY MINISTER OF SLOVAK AGRICULTURE STOPPED BY TO SAY HELLO. HE TOO SPOKE OF APPRECIATION FOR THE ARRANGED VISITS FOR

THE CZECHOSLOVAK TEAM.BUCHANAN

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